

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a refrigeration apparatus, ~~comprising: a heat source unit (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502) comprising a compressor (21) and a heat source side heat exchanger (23); a utilization unit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51); and a liquid refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) that connects said heat source unit and said utilization unit; said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~an equipment installing step that constitutes forming a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510) by installing said connecting a heat source unit and said a utilization unit, and connecting said to a refrigerant connecting pipe; and~~

~~discharging a noncondensable gas discharging step that operates said by operating a compressor of the heat source unit to circulate a refrigerant inside said the refrigerant circuit, by using uses a membrane to separate a the noncondensable gas remaining inside said the refrigerant connecting pipe from the refrigerant flowing between said a heat source side heat exchanger of the heat source unit and said a utilization side heat exchanger of the utilization unit, and discharges by discharging the noncondensable gas out of said the refrigerant circuit.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of constructing a refrigeration apparatus, ~~comprising: as recited in claim 1, further comprising~~

~~a installing the heat source unit, (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502) comprising a compressor (21) and a the heat source side heat exchanger (23); a and the~~

utilization unit prior to the forming of the refrigerant circuit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51); and a liquid refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) that connects said heat source unit and said utilization unit;

said method comprising the steps of:

a refrigerant circuit constituting step that constitutes a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510) by connecting said heat source unit and said utilization unit via said refrigerant connecting pipe; and

a noncondensable gas discharging step that operates said compressor to circulate a refrigerant inside said refrigerant circuit, uses a separation membrane (34b, 1034b) to separate a noncondensable gas remaining inside said refrigerant connecting pipe from the refrigerant flowing between said heat source side heat exchanger and said utilization side heat exchanger, and discharges the noncondensable gas out of said refrigerant circuit.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method refrigeration apparatus constructing method as recited in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein

in said noncondensable gas discharging step, the refrigerant flowing between said the heat source side heat exchanger (23) and said the utilization side heat exchanger (51) is a vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant that is separated into a liquid refrigerant and a gas refrigerant containing said the noncondensable gas, and said the noncondensable gas is subsequently separated from said the vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method refrigeration apparatus constructing method as recited in Claim 3, wherein

~~in said noncondensable gas discharging step, separated said~~ the noncondensable gas is released into ~~the~~ an atmosphere.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method~~ refrigeration apparatus constructing method as recited in ~~any one claim of Claim 1 through Claim 4,~~ further comprising:

~~a seal testing step that, before said noncondensable gas discharging step, performs~~  
performing a seal test on said the refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507) before  
discharging the noncondensable gas; and

~~a sealed gas releasing step that, after said seal testing step, reduces~~ reducing a pressure  
by releasing a sealed gas inside said the refrigerant connecting pipe into the atmosphere after  
performing the seal test.

6. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus (1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501) ~~that constitutes a refrigerant circuit (10, 510, 1510), wherein a heat source unit (2, 102, 202, 502, 602, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1502) comprising a compressor (21) and a heat source side heat exchanger (23), and a utilization unit (5, 1505) comprising a utilization side heat exchanger (51), are connected via a refrigerant connecting pipe (6, 1506, 7, 1507),~~  
comprising:

a gas separation apparatus (31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231) comprising including a separation membrane (34b, 1034b) connected to a liquid side refrigerant circuit (11, 511, 1511) that configured to connects said a heat source side heat exchanger and said a utilization side heat exchanger, ~~and that is capable of separating~~ the separation membrane being configured to separate from ~~the~~ a refrigerant and ~~discharging~~ discharge out of said the liquid

side refrigerant circuit ~~the~~ a noncondensable gas remaining inside ~~said~~ a refrigerant connecting pipe by operating ~~said~~ a compressor and circulating the refrigerant inside ~~said~~ the liquid side refrigerant circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) A The refrigeration apparatus (~~1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501~~) as recited in Claim 6, wherein

~~said the~~ liquid side refrigerant circuit (~~11, 511, 1511~~) ~~further comprises~~ includes a receiver (25) ~~capable of accumulating~~ configured to accumulate the refrigerant flowing between ~~said the~~ heat source side heat exchanger (23) and ~~said the~~ utilization side heat exchanger (51); and

~~said the~~ gas separation apparatus (~~31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231~~) is connected to ~~said the~~ receiver, and is configured to separates the noncondensable gas contained in ~~the~~ a gas phase of the refrigerant that is accumulated in ~~the~~ an upper part of ~~said the~~ receiver.

8. (Currently Amended) A The refrigeration apparatus (~~1, 101, 201, 501, 601, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1501~~) as recited in Claim 7, wherein

~~said the~~ gas separation apparatus (~~31, 131, 231, 1031, 1131, 1231~~) ~~further comprises~~ includes a discharge valve (~~34e, 1034e~~) ~~for releasing~~ configured to release the separated noncondensable gas into the atmosphere after separation.

9. (New) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein

the refrigerant flowing between the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger is a vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant that is separated into a liquid

refrigerant and a gas refrigerant containing the noncondensable gas, and the noncondensable gas is separated from the vapor-liquid separated gas refrigerant.

10. (New) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein  
the noncondensable gas is released into an atmosphere.

11. (New) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising  
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the  
noncondensable gas; and  
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe  
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.

12. (New) The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising  
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the  
noncondensable gas; and  
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe  
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.

13. (New) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising  
performing a seal test on the refrigerant connecting pipe before discharging the  
noncondensable gas; and  
reducing a pressure by releasing a sealed gas inside the refrigerant connecting pipe  
into the atmosphere after performing the seal test.